

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A drum shredder for reducing material comprising
a housing;
a tapered cutting drum rotatably mounted within the housing, the tapered cutting drum having a cross-section with an outer diameter that is smaller than an outer diameter of another cross-section of said drum;
at least one cutting implement disposed about an outer surface of the tapered cutting drum ~~to provide a compound cutting angle;~~
an anvil adjacent to the cutting drum; and
a drive connected to the tapered cutting drum; and
a bellyband that partially wraps the tapered cutting drum.
2. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 1, wherein the anvil cooperates with the cutting drum to provide an acute cutting angle.
3. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 1, wherein the cutting drum has two ends and a middle section, the cutting drum being tapered toward the middle section to form two regions, each region having at least one cutting implement.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 1, wherein the cutting drum is tapered toward both ends.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The drum shredder of claim 5, ~~wherein the bellyband ends at about 90 degrees to about 135 degrees away from the chipping point 1, further comprising an infeed in communication with the tapered cutting drum, wherein the bellyband extends from proximate to the anvil to about 90 degrees to 135 degrees as measured from a line beginning parallel to the infeed at a height of the center of the drum.~~
9. (Currently Amended) The drum shredder of claim 1, wherein each cutting implement has a pocket associated with it for carrying reduced material, each pocket being disposed in the surface of the tapered cutting drum.
10. (Currently Amended) A drum shredder for chipping and discharging wood comprising:
a housing;

at least one tapered cutting drum rotatably supported in the housing, the tapered cutting drum having a cross-section with an outer diameter that is smaller than an outer diameter of another cross-section of said drum;

at least one cutting implement supported by the tapered cutting drum;

a bellyband at least partially wrapping the tapered cutting drum, the bellyband being adapted to accommodate at least two major discharge streams, each discharge stream having a different major discharge direction;

a transition in communication with the bellyband, ~~the transition being adapted to accommodate at least two major discharge streams from the bellyband, each discharge stream having a different major discharge direction;~~ and

a discharge port in communication with the transition.

11. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has a non-linear rear wall.

12. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has a multi-sided rear wall.

13. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has a substantially v-shaped or substantially inverted v-shaped wall.

14. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has a semi-circular wall.

15. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has at least 5 sides.

16. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the bellyband has a substantially 'v-shaped' or substantially inverted 'v-shaped' wall.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. The drum shredder of claim ~~10~~ 19, wherein each cutting implement has a pocket for carrying reduced material associated with it, each pocket being disposed in the surface of the tapered cutting drum.

20. (Currently Amended) The drum shredder of claim 19, wherein the shape of the bellyband conforms with the shape of the tapered cutting drum.

21. (New) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the outer surface of the tapered cutting drum is tapered toward the middle of said drum.

22. (New) The drum shredder of claim 1, wherein the tapered cutting drum further includes an essentially solid outer surface.

23. (New) The drum shredder of claim 3, wherein the tapered cutting drum further includes an essentially solid outer surface.

24. (New) The drum shredder of claim 23, wherein each cutting implement has a pocket associated with it, each pocket being disposed in the essentially solid outer surface and adapted for carrying reduced material.

25. (New) The drum shredder of claim 23, wherein the bellyband wraps the tapered cutting drum at a substantially even distance away from said tapered cutting drum.

26. (New) The drum shredder of claim 3, wherein each cutting implement extends along at least 50% of each region.